

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Mayor: Crime Drops During first Half of 2009*** ***Violent Crime Decreased by 18.9 percent Compared to Last Year***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the Jersey City Police Department released official, certified crime statistics that show a nearly **18 percent drop** in crime citywide during the first half of 2009 compared to the same period during the prior year.

According to official crime statistics certified by the New Jersey State Police, through the first six months of 2009, Jersey City has realized significant decreases in both violent and non-violent crime categories, boasting double-digit decreases in six of the eight categories for a 17.7 percent drop in crime overall for the first half of the year.

The most significant decrease in violent crime was in the category of **robbery which dropped 26.4 percent** during the first six months of this year in comparison to last year at the same time. This steep drop was followed similarly in the aggravated assault category with an 11.3 percent decline during the first half of this year.

“Whenever you see crime, particularly violent crime, decrease, it is a positive measure of not only the effectiveness of police work, but also the success of the Police Department’s partnership with residents,” **Mayor Healy** said. “Although I’m pleased with this decline, I know that we have to constantly work to make even greater strides because one crime is one crime too many.”

Overall, **violent crime dropped in the first half of 2009 by 18.9 percent**, while non-violent crime dropped by 17.3 percent.

In the non-violent crime category, arsons dropped by 51 percent – a decrease from 49 incidents in 2008 the first half of the year compared to 24 cases this year during the same period. Also down significantly were car thefts and attempted car thefts, which saw a 23.4 percent drop. That drop was followed by home and business burglaries, which declined 18.1 percent the first half of the year compared to the first half of 2008.

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“We’ve taken many strides, including the use of directed patrol in areas that had shown a spike in order to stop those increases from becoming a full-blown trend,” said **Police Chief Tom Comey**. “We not just got a handle on burglaries, but we turned that problem around and will continue to do so. And for the first time in our city’s recent history, or over the last three decades, we might have less than 1,000 cars stolen in a given calendar year.”

Also, in the non-violent crime category, **thefts dropped 14.5 percent** compared to the first six months of 2008.

In the violent crime area, there was no change in the homicide category, 15 incidents for the first six months of both 2008 and 2009, while there were a total of 26 sexual assaults in the first half of the year, three more than in 2008.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**

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